

Osoyoos Man To Receive Farm Award

Douglas Fraser, an Osoyoos fruit grower, is one of three B.C. farmers who have each won \$2,000 awards under the Bank of Montreal Canada Centennial Farm Leadership Awards program.

Names of the winners were announced by G. Arnold Hart, chairman and president of the bank.

The award will enable Mr. Fraser to visit Europe to study latest developments in technique and economics of dwarf tree production.

In preparation for their travel - study projects, the three B.C. winners will attend an expense - paid, two - day seminar in Saskatoon at the end of April, with the other 22 winners from the western provinces. A similar session will be held in Montreal for the 25 winners from the eastern provinces.

Pentland 21/3/66

"The principle of preserving free trade is important to us as a trading nation," Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart told an interviewer recently. He added that British trade with Hanoi has no military value.

For months U.S. congressmen and publicists have been worried by reports that ships flying the British, French, Greek, Norwegian and other friendly flags are entering North Vietnamese ports.

WON'T BELIEVE IT

Despite contrary assurances by administration officials, some critics believe the British, in particular, have been engaged in large business exchanges with Hanoi at a time when American soldiers are being killed and wounded in the Viet Nam war.

This has produced threats of reprisals by the American maritime unions against ships of countries engaged in the North Viet Nam trade.

But a survey of the situation suggests British trade and traffic with North Viet Nam is

NERVE

Few Amateurs ...

Doug Fraser Finds European Growers are Capable Lot

These are some impressions of orcharding in Europe. Accounts of orchard practices in Europe have been given through other media, and a more detailed report is available to BCFGA locals. In this article, to avoid too much repetition, I shall try to keep to general topics.

First, I wish to thank the Bank of Montreal for making possible a most interesting look at European orcharding, and second, I wish to thank Drs. Maurice Welsh, Don Fisher and Jim Marshall, and John Smith, Louis Van Rochooudt, and J. B. Lander, for a tremendous amount of help in planning the tour, and for many letters of introduction.

NEED KNOWLEDGE

One very definite impression

is that our fellow orchardists in Europe are very capable fruit growers. There are very few amateurs over there.

Generally speaking fruit growing, in fact any form of horticulture, is regarded as an occupation requiring a knowledge of plants and how they grow, so that basic courses in horticulture, and courses in the particular branch one intends to work in, are regarded as essential prerequisites.

This is perhaps particularly true of Holland, which I felt to be a model in efficiency in anything it undertakes.

MANY COURSES

There are, for example, general horticultural evening classes, in which a complete course

takes two winters. One can also attend a four-year elementary horticultural school, which follows on from elementary school level. There are also secondary horticultural schools which give complete training in various branches of horticulture, such as fruit growing.

RESEARCH EMPHASIS

Also particularly impressive in Holland is the emphasis on research, and the organization of advisory services to bring to the grower the results of research.

Research is carried on at a number of different institutes,

and by the laboratories of the agricultural university at Wageningen.

Research institutes are subsidized by government but growers also contribute on a per acre basis, and the managing boards are almost entirely composed of representatives of horticultural organizations.

One gets the feeling in Holland that if some new problem arose this week there would be a full-fledged institute at work on it on Monday morning!

Mechanization is utilized to the full by progressive European growers. They immediately put into use the latest advances in horticulture.

Herbicides are widely used, as is Sevin for chemical thinning. Gibberellin acid, for example, is used to promote fuller production of one of their varieties of pears (Triomphe de Vienne) and they are experimenting with B-9.

And let us not forget, when we are thinking of scientific advances, that CA storage is not a North American discovery.

STILL RETAIN BOX

In their packing and storage facilities they are as up-to-date and efficient as we are. For example, immersion dumping is used in recent installations in packing houses.

We might consider we are farther advanced in having replaced the box by the bin. I can only assume they have so far had some good reason, which I don't know, for keeping the box.

In packaging and presentation of the product... at least where it travels any distance... they are quite up with us.

In fruit handling, there is a general trend to centralize this in packing and storage plants—usually co-operative. There is also a trend to grouping of these under brand names for standardizing of grades and quality.

And in England there will be applied this year national grading standards, the same as those applying in Common Market countries.

It was interesting to find how many problems fruit growers have in common in Europe and America. The European grower, too, is worrying about possible overproduction, and is not immune from price fluctuations.

FRENCH IN TROUBLE

A good crop over all of Europe, combined with the coming into production of many new plantings has resulted in lower prices for the 1966 crop, and the lead article in a recent French fruit growing magazine is entitled: "Crisis in French Fruit Growing."

The author rejects floor prices as too complicated to administer with all varieties, grades and sizes, regards survival of the fittest as ruinous to too many, and calls for the co-operation of all concerned—government, grower, packers and shippers, wholesalers and retailers—to extricate the apple industry from its perilous state.

NEED WINDBREAKS

Horticulturally, the European grower has most of our problems, and some of his own. In many areas of Holland he has to plant a windbreak two or three years before he plants the orchard, and the North Sea winds must come from several directions, for he sometimes needs two windbreaks at right angles to each other.

Again, in the lower Rhone valley, strong winds sweep down from the Alps to the Mediterranean, and windbreaks are essential here. One plus factor for the trellised planting was less loss from windfalls than with individual trees.

There are spring frosts, too, in many areas and the weather may be cool and wet at blossom time. He has hail, and while in many areas he doesn't have to irrigate, there are other areas where he has to put in equip-

(Continued on Next Page)

B of M Travel Grant

Douglas Fraser was one of the British Columbia winners of the Centennial Awards to Farmers given by the Bank of Montreal. Under this program, the Bank of Montreal made grants for travel-study projects chosen by applicants.

Mr. Fraser's project was to visit apple-growing areas in Europe, to see what concepts and methods might be of use to us in B.C., as we change from the traditional orchard of relatively few, large trees per acre, to orchards of more closely-planted smaller trees.

He visited research stations and orchards in England, Belgium, Holland, France, Switzerland, and Italy.



Few Amateurs

(Continued from Page 12)

ment for perhaps one irrigation a season.

And while the B.C. grower, moving sprinkler pipes for four or five months, may at times envy those European growers who don't have to irrigate at all, he can take consolation from the fact that frequent sprinklings from the clouds mean anywhere from 20 to 30 sprays a season for scab and mildew. The grower across the Atlantic has codling moth and aphids and, naturally enough, the European Red Mite. Bacterial canker is a serious disease which doesn't bother us too much and strangely enough, there seems to be little problem with collar rot, except for Cox's Orange, and this is controllable with copper sprays.

In the fruit-growing areas in all countries one felt one was a member of an international brotherhood, a community of fruit growers. One basis for hope for a more peaceful world in the future is the manner in which scientists share discoveries which help in the solution of common problems. This we are aware of, but it was warming to find this same spirit among growers as well.

If I came home without all the information I should have brought, and I did, the fault is mine, and not my hosts!

Information, anything they thought interesting and helpful was freely shared, and gladly given, and I hope we shall be as welcoming and helpful to visitors as European scientists and orchardists were to this grower from a far-off British Columbia.

Douglas P. Fraser Biography

Douglas Plaskett Fraser (1908-1991) was born in Kelowna, only son of George Johnston Fraser and Annie Josephine Fraser (nee Plaskett). The family, including Douglas's sister, Peggy moved to Osoyoos in 1917 to manage the Leslie Hill orchard (sister Dorothy was born in 1919). George J. Fraser established Osoyoos Orchards Ltd., which planned the local irrigation system and parcelled out land. The family resided in the old home of Judge Haynes, one of the earliest settlers of Osoyoos.

Douglas assisted his father in orcharding prior to entering UBC in 1928, where he became the first male student in English to win a scholarship. He graduated in 1932 with first class honours in English and History. Douglas taught for a year in the Cariboo, and then became principal of the two-room school at Osoyoos in 1934. It was then that he married his fiancée, Dorothy Johnson of Victoria. Their son George was born in 1935.

Douglas purchased 10 acres of land in 1935 to begin his own orchard, and continued to be involved in school by driving the school bus. He sold his orchard in 1945 in order to take over the family orchard, which he in turn sold twenty years later to his son, George Garnett.

Among his accomplishments, Douglas was active in the BC Fruit Grower's Association, and was a founding director of the Fruit Growers' Mutual Insurance Company, and a director of the Fruit Grower's Hail Insurance Company. One of the highlights of his agricultural career was winning the Farm Leadership award from the Bank of Montreal in 1966, which enabled him to travel to six European countries to study apple growing techniques. An ardent environmentalist, he served for many years as director of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, which saw the establishment in 1980 of the Ecological Reserve near the head of Osoyoos Lake. He was also a member of a group which proposed the Trout Creek Ecological Reserve near Summerland.

The Fraser family is notable for their cultural and community involvement. George J. Fraser wrote a book entitled, "The Story of Osoyoos-Sept. 1811-Dec. 1952." Both Douglas and his wife Dorothy were writers who contributed to local newspapers and wrote articles for the Okanagan Historical Society Reports. They were longtime supporters of the CCF, and later the NDP. Dorothy was a writer and professional music teacher, involved in organizing concerts for the South Okanagan Concert Society.

Douglas Fraser memorial will be held tomorrow

Douglas Plaskett Fraser, pioneer resident of Osoyoos, passed away at his home Sept. 15, just one day before his 83rd birthday. He was born in Kelowna, Sept. 16, 1908 to George Johnston Fraser and Annie Josephine Fraser (nee Plaskett).

In 1917 the family moved to Osoyoos to manage the Leslie Hill orchard, and Osoyoos was their home until their deaths.

Douglas entered UBC in 1928, won a scholarship (the first male student in English to do so) and graduated in 1932 with first-class honours in English and history. In his graduating year he became engaged to Dorothy Johnson of Victoria.

After a year of teaching in the Cariboo, he became "principal" of the two-room Osoyoos School, and on the strength of the \$800 annual salary, married Dorothy on August 10, 1934. In August 1935, their son, George Garnett was born, and in the same year five acres of land were planted to orchard.

Seeking a change, he taught for two years at a private school at Qualicum Beach. Returning to Osoyoos, he drove school bus while caring for the growing orchard. In 1945 he sold the orchard in order to take over the family place, which he farmed until 1965 when it was sold to his son.

In the intervening years he was active in the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association: he was a convention delegate for 25 years, was a founding director of the Fruit Growers' Mutual

Insurance Company as well as being a director of the B.C. Fruit Growers' Hail Insurance Company.

One of the most outstanding of the many highlights of his life in agriculture was winning a Farm Leadership Award in 1966, which enabled him to go to six European countries to study dwarfing rootstocks for apples.

After his retirement from active farming, he served for many years as a director of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, and 14 years of effort

culminated in 1980 with the establishment of the Ecological Reserve near the head of Osoyoos Lake, which is characteristic of the Osoyoos Arid Biotic Zone.

Douglas Fraser is survived by his wife, Dorothy, his son, George (Ellen), his sister, Dorothy Molt, and four grandchildren, Glen, Lee, Robynne and Tanya. He also leaves several nieces and nephews and numerous cousins.

By request there will be no public service. But there will be a tea, to which all his many friends and acquaintances are invited, at the Elks Hall in Osoyoos, tomorrow (Thursday) at 3 p.m.

-Contributed

- George Johnston Fraser

- Douglas Plaskett Fraser

(Dorothy of records)

- George Garnett Fraser

Douglas P. Fraser born Sept. 16, 1908
died Sept. 15, 1991

Dorothy Fraser, nee Johnson b. _____
d. May -, 1995

son, George Garnett, born Aug. 1935

[Fraser, George (son) 2908-62nd Ave. Osoyoos. 495-6024]

Doug P. Fraser's father, George J. (see OHS report) wrote "The Story of Osoyoos" (book on reference shelf)

Doug had a brother Pat, who started the Fraser Real Estate. His wife, Peggy, was first canteloupe queen (1936)

note: There was another "Fraser" who had property on Green Lake Road. He adopted Arthur Kenneth Worth "Bill" Fraser, uncle to Ron Worth. [No relation to Doug. (B)]

Douglas Plaskett Fraser

Douglas Plaskett Fraser was involved in the BCFGA and was elected as a delegate to the annual convention twenty-five times. He was director of the BCFGA Mutual Hail Insurance Company, and was founding director of the BCFGA Mutual Insurance Company which ran successfully until taken over by ICBC.

Miscellaneous file...

[May 17 issue of Oliver Chronicle]

BY MICHAEL NEWMAN

*"Do not go gentle into that good night,
Old age should burn and rave at close
of day;*

*Rage, rage against the dying of the
light."*

Dylan Thomas

Dorothy Fraser died this weekend. If anyone took Dylan Thomas' advice seriously it was Dorothy. She hated growing old and said so. Her last major publication was a piece in the Globe and Mail on the subject of aging.

My introduction to Dorothy was through the South Okanagan Concert Society of which she was the grand dame. This wasn't an official position within the society, but one we all acknowledged. Dorothy had been organizing concerts and musical events in the South Okanagan for far longer than I have been alive and was always to be consulted before we finalized our program.

Being a piano teacher, among her many accomplishments, her taste in music was staunchly classical. During a discussion with my friend Graem Nelson on what she considered to be the ideal

four-concert series, she drew her small, slim body perfectly erect and pronounced in her clear, cultured English voice, "My idea of the perfect concert series is four pianists!"

Dorothy was firm on what she considered of value but she was not rigid. In the following season we brought in the Vancouver-based singer Leon Bibb. It proved to be an immensely popular concert and at the end Dorothy approached Graem and said, "I changed my mind, the perfect concert series would be three pianists and Leon Bibb."

With her husband Doug, who passed away four years ago, Dorothy led a life committed to her community. The Frasers were environmentalists before the word was invented. In an area that consistently voted Social Credit or Conservative, the Frasers championed the CCF and later the NDP. Prolific writers, their letters and opinions appeared in all local media on issues they felt needed comment.

The South Okanagan has lost an important pioneer and community citizen. A memorial reception will be held Saturday at her home on East Lakeshore Drive in Osoyoos from 2 to 5 p.m.

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Oliver . . . Yesterday and Today — Page 50

OSOYOOS

Osoyoos is an Indian name meaning "the Narrows" first visited by white men in 1811. A fur trader named David Stuart and a companion Montigny of the Pacific Fur Company on their way north searching for a better trade route into the Interior. As a result of this Kamloops became an important trading centre and Osoyoos went on the maps as a Fur Traders Camp Site and then when Fort Okanagan was abandoned a post was established at Osoyoos.

In 1861 when herds of stock were brought across the border a custom's port at Osoyoos was established there with J. C. Haynes as the first customs officer. Judge Haynes also pioneered in ranching and his domain grew from the original homestead to some 22,000 acres.

Theodore Kruger a trader and pioneer resident became Custom's Officer following Judge Haynes' death in 1888.

He came to Osoyoos in 1866 as manager of the Hudson's Bay store, later sold to him in 1872 where he carried on the business until his death in 1899.

In 1892 the mining recording office at McKinney was moved to Osoyoos with C.A.R. Lambly in charge and in 1898 it was moved to Fairview where a real boom had developed.

In 1906 Leslie Hill a mining engineer of Nelson acquired 1200 acres on the east side of the lake from Tom Ellis of Penticton and on a part of it grew fruit and proved the fruit could be successfully grown in the area and in 1910 George Fraser came from Penticton and 200 acres on the east side of the lake were purchased from the late Francis Richter a well known pioneer of Keremeos. In 1919 the first move to develop the district was made by Mr. Fraser and a group including Dougal Burpee, Wm. McConnachie, Charles Carless and R. H. Plaskett, a company was formed called the Osoyoos Orchards Limited which installed irrigation to cover some 300 acres and a greater part of it was planted. Others purchasing from the company were F. L. Goodman, E. R. Dawson and Raymond Fraser.

With the arrival of water by the South Okanagan Lands Project in the early twenties development proceeded on the west side simultaneously with Oliver moving southwards from the north.

The late Harry Fairweather was instrumental in forming the first Fire Brigade in 1922 at a meeting one Sunday afternoon. It is recalled that the Rev. Harry Feir admonished Mr. Fairweather for holding the meeting on a Sunday.

Oliver & District Heritage Society
Box 847,
Oliver, B.C. V0H 1T0

The Story of Osoyoos
Sept 1811 to Dec. 1952
by Geo. J. Fraser The Development of Osoyoos

All that remained to be done was to continue the tourniquet treatment for several hours. Apart from the pain resultant from the tourniquet application toward the end of the fifteen minute period no ill effect was ever experienced.

When Josephine threw the snake from the door it landed on the path by which Dr. Effner approached the house. As it was an approach seldom used, others who had come to the house had not seen the snake, but Dr. Effner, naturally hurrying, almost stepped on it. There was a resultant blast of profanity, winding up with why hadn't somebody buried the d--- thing.

Apart from the snake incident the most interesting event of those early years, as far as the family was concerned, was the birth of our youngest hopeful, Dorothy Josephine, in Oroville, thus giving an international touch to the family.


Dorothy would heatedly object to being called a Yankee in her girlhood days but in later years she was pleased to be possessed of the dual citizenship which enabled her to cross the line going or coming without question. She then had the laugh on us.

The year 1919 saw the end of our three year lease and also the end of the lone ranch at Osoyoos. The spring of 1920 was due to bring us neighbors and most of them old friends from Penticton. It was to be the dawn of a new era for Osoyoos, the era of intensive development.

GEO. J. FRASER

The writer having had a part in initiating intensive development in Osoyoos District gives that as his warrant for submitting a brief personal biography.

In doing so I trust I may be absolved from any design to cash in on the glory of that small group who share the distinction of being Osoyoos Pioneers in every sense of the word,

 Biographical Info

The Story of Osoyoos

those men and women of the day when the only trail was the pack horse trail and the only means of transportation, passenger or freight, was on the back of a horse, such were the true pioneers.

True, I am frequently referred to as a pioneer of Osoyoos, so frequently that I could almost be excused for believing it to be correct but any justification for such rank as applied to myself must be qualified and limited to an era, the era of intensive development. I may have a small corner there.

* I was born in the village of Teeswater, Bruce County, Ontario, on November 6th, 1872, the eighth child of a family of eleven, four boys and seven girls.

Ancestry on the maternal side has been traced to the French Huguenots and on the paternal side, Scotch only, as far as the family tree be climbed with certainty.

In 1880 the family migrated to the new Province of Manitoba that had just been reached by railways and where land was being thrown open for settlement under most favorable conditions. Father located in an area in the southern section of the Province in which developed the Village of Pilot Mound. There for the next sixteen years I received an education in mixed farming. Losing a year's schooling through lack of facilities in the new district, coupled with being called upon to herd cattle for a few months each summer resulted in a public school education that terminated midway in the eighth grade. I was now twenty-four and giving some thought to getting started on my own. I had a hankering, however, to see something of the more distant west and after a study of some literature sent me by the Department of Lands at Victoria, B.C., I bought a ticket for the west with my ultimate objective, the Okanagan Valley.

I worked on large stock ranches for four years in the Vernon and Kelowna Districts. Spent the summer of 1900 looking for bigger pay jobs in the Kootenay. Went to Alberta in the fall with the avowed intention of locating a ranch.

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The Development of Osoyoos

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In the spring of 1901, I had a little bunch of cattle in the foothills west of Macleod in partnership with John Baird, a young friend from the Okanagan. In 1903 was ranching on my own. In the fall of 1905, met a young lady of irresistible charm, * Annie Josephine Plaskett of Toronto, the youngest in a family of nine and the only girl, and my perspective in life fluctuated noticeably. In 1906 sold the ranch and in December was back in the Okanagan with the fixed intention of getting established on an orchard tract. Joined my brother Frank, in a fruit shipping business instead, and from that a cannery business developed.

At 7 a.m. on the 26th day of November, 1907, at the Anglican church in Macleod, Alta., I exchanged nuptial vows with the previously mentioned young lady after which we proceeded to Kelowna where we established our first home. After three years employment as secretary-treasurer of Western Cannery at Kelowna I took a scouting trip to Penticton to investigate the possibility of getting support for the establishment of a cannery there. Received all the encouragement I could have hoped for and in the spring of 1910 we moved to Penticton. Because of a fast growing hunch that a real estate boom was in the offing I abandoned my cannery plans for the time being and bought a half interest with the late Captain J. R. Mitchell in an established real estate and insurance business. The boom developed as anticipated and lasted till the summer of 1912 when business got so desparately slow I was glad to forego my investment and move out. The hunch however had paid off. In the spring of 1913 I went after my old love again, got ample capital subscribed and had a cannery in operation in good time for the fruit harvest. An unfortunate amalgamation with Western Cannery in Kelowna, details of which need not be recounted here, brought disaster, and I was once again foot loose. In 1914 I took on the Valley agency for the sale of Studebaker cars. Wished I had not. In the spring of 1915 I leased thirty acres of developed orchard and later in the summer took on the

The Development of Osoyoos

management of the Occidental Fruit Packing House in Penticton. Had a satisfactory season. In 1916 confined activities to management of packing house.

During the winter of 1916-17 I went to the coast and interviewed the trustees of the Leslie Hill estate at Osoyoos and returned with a three-year lease of the Hill ranch. For two years, operated the ranch in association with the late E. A. Helps. Marketed our produce by direct sale to the retail trade in the Boundary and Kootenay country shipping it in bond via the G. N. Railway at Oroville, each package being separately corded and sealed. The third year, 1919, I was sole operator. During the summer of 1919 in association with Mr. D. E. Burpee and other friends, a company was organized and the estate purchased.

A part of the estate was immediately subdivided. I purchased a fourteen acre tract from the company and in the spring of 1920 planted my first and only orchard. For the next few years while waiting for the developing orchard to come into bearing we grew ground or vine crops between the trees to enable us to keep the proverbial pot boiling.

In 1923 when the Associated Growers came into being I joined the Oliver local believing that the future of the growers lay in united effort. Was two years in the chair of the local and also director to Central and during the same period was the southern delegate of the B.C.F.G.A. By 1932 the volume of produce grown in the Osoyoos area had increased to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to organize a local of the Associated at Osoyoos. I had the honor of being elected first president and of continuing in the office for eleven years. Was the Osoyoos delegate to Central during the same period.

—In 1938 finding that the hazard of age was compelling me to dodge some of the heavy orchard work I turned operations over to a foreman. Opened a Realty and Insurance business

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Took an active part in promoting and developing local industries, including McNaughton's Cannery, Osoyoos Cement Works and Osoyoos Sawmills Ltd.

In 1944 I sold my orchard. In 1947 I sold my realty and insurance business and now devoted my leisure to delving into past history of the district, together with other hobbies, including gardening and collecting curios.

On January 7th, 1952, Mrs. Fraser and I had the pleasure of having the award of all time good citizenship conferred on us by the Commissioners of the Village of Osoyoos.

The junior members of the family are Douglas Plaskett, Margaret Alma (Peggy) and Dorothy Josephine. Douglas took a university course, majoring in English and History, after which he taught public schools in the Cariboo and Osoyoos.

School teaching failed to measure up to the interesting life of the orchardist as he experienced it in earlier years and so he returned to the outdoor life of the fruit grower where he battles ever increasing orchard pests. Doug is an enthusiastic golfer, takes an active part in fruit growers' affairs and in the fortunes of the C.C.F.

Margaret, after rounding out a high school course at Westminster and a business course at Kamloops Business College started in as accountant with the newly organized Osoyoos Co-operative Growers. After seven years she succumbed to the lure of housekeeping for two, and now as Mrs. Geo. Driver, is, with her husband George, wrestling with the interesting and intricate problems that Dame Nature hurls at the orchardist.

Dorothy, our Yankee born daughter, like sister Margaret, graduated from Westminster and Kamloops just in time to sign on with the Co-op for the position Peggy vacated. After a sea-

The Story of Osoyoos

son, in quest of health through virtue of change of climate she sought the sunny coast climate of Florida. For more romantic reasons than climate she decided on a home in her native land and so swapped her name for one with a husband attached, and now it is Dorothy Molt, Mrs. Charles F.

LESLIE HILL

To the late Leslie Hill, whose place of residence in his late years alternated between Nelson and Osoyoos, goes the honor of being the first to experiment in orchard development on a commercial scale on the Canadian side of the border in the Osoyoos Lake area. Mr. Hill first saw the light of day in London, England, was one of a family of eight boys, received his education in one of London's many colleges. He chose mine engineering for his life's vocation and was successful in obtaining the coveted diploma qualifying him to practice.

Among interesting experiences of his early life was his employment on the Great Eastern when the second Atlantic cable was laid and then on the Dacia under Sir Charles Bright when the cables were laid through the West Indies.

When on the latter job he took a crew ashore at Colon and built a platform on which they placed a statue of Columbus and the Indian maiden. The statue had been on show at a Paris exposition and Empress Eugenia had sent it to Colon where the people apparently lacking experience in such work persuaded Sir Charles to set it up for them.

When through with the cable laying Mr. Hill emigrated to America to seek his fortune and located near Salt Lake City, Utah, where he engaged in mining.

What success he had in that first venture has not been recorded but circumstances would suggest encouragement was lacking as he gave up mining for a time. His next venture was cattle ranching near Round Up, Mont., where he was as-

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The Development of Osoyoos

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sociated with Harold Lowther, a brother of a former Speaker of the British House of Commons. They lost heavily in a terrible blizzard in 1888 after which Mr. Hill sold his interest in the ranch and moved to Alberta where he invested in the Glenbow horse ranch between Calgary and Cochrane.

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While in Alberta he interested himself in coal mining at Lunbreck. Whether or not his Alberta ventures presented him with satisfactory dividends is not known. In 1903 he moved to Nelson, B.C., where he followed his vocation as a mining engineer and as such was manager of the Arlington mine at Erie.

He was seemingly ready to try his luck at anything as he took a flier into the sawmill business by buying an interest in a mill in the Kaslo district.

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About 1905 he took a prospecting trip to the Okanagan and becoming thrilled with the fruit growing possibilities of the valley he acquired an option from Tom Ellis of Penticton for his entire ranch that extended, with few small breaks, from Naramata to the border. With that option in his pocket he left for England to arrange for the capital with which to finance the purchase and development. There was naturally a time limit on the option and according to the generally accepted version of events, the option expired when Mr. Hill was on the way back with the necessary wherewithall to complete the purchase.

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In the meantime Messrs. L. W. Shatford of Fairview and W. T. Shatford of Vernon had secured the promise from Ellis that should the Hill option expire that they would be given a similar opportunity to buy. The Shatfords lost no time in securing the promised option and when Mr. Hill arrived, prepared to do business, he was greeted with the disappointing information that he was too late.

Mr. Hill emigrated to
near Salt Lake City,

Naturally Mr. Hill was keenly disappointed that his great dream of engineering development of the southern Okanagan was not to be and it was told the writer by the late George

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The Story of Osoyoos

Cawston that Tom Ellis expressed sympathy for Mr. Hill and in an effort to soften the blow in some measure, he gave him the land he had at Osoyoos located on the east side of the lake in lieu of what he had dropped on the option.

Mr. Hill went right to work on the development of his new property and at the mouth of Haynes Creek he planted forty acres of orchard with the objective of making it a model plantation. He planted a well assorted variety of trees including cherries, apricots, nectarines, plums, prunes, peaches, pears and apples. The apple variety were Rome, Newton, Jonathan, Spitzenberg and Cox's Orange. Mr. Hill had the idea that with such an assortment he could keep an experienced crew continuously throughout the season.

Mr. Hill continued to reside in Nelson and in business as a mining engineer but was a frequent visitor to his ranch, development of which was under an experienced orchardist.

The writer had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Hill several times and on one occasion interviewed him on behalf of some Kelowna men who would have been interested in buying should the price be right as they saw it. Mr. Hill's answer was \$125,000 exclusive of fifty acres that included the orchard. He might just as well have said, not for sale.

The late E. A. Helps of Osoyoos was foreman for Hill for some years and on one of Mr. Hill's visits to the ranch he found that Mr. Helps had failed to carry out some work according to instructions given him and upon taking Mr. Helps to task about it, Mr. Helps said, "The way you wanted it done was not the right way and I was not going to do it the wrong way." "Mr. Helps", said Mr. Hill, "this is my ranch and I want things done my way whether it is the right way or the wrong way," and forthwith Mr. Helps was given thirty days notice. There is no question as to the authenticity of the above story as it was told to the writer by both parties concerned.

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Mr. Hill 1916, before commenting, the wreck of great pride.

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Mr. Hill v

The Development of Osoyoos

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The orchard developed and was a real show place. It was kept absolutely clear of weeds and with a good dust mulch which was the approved practice in those days. Leslie Hill could well have been proud of his orchard.

It had not, however, become self sustaining when the war broke out in 1914 and Mr. Hill, evidently dependent on capital from overseas with which to carry on his orchard development found himself handicapped because of the restrictions on the movement of capital from Great Britain. His solution of the problem was to turn the orchard over to his foreman who was to take care of it for what he could make out of it. Unfortunately the foreman who had been quite satisfactory in that capacity for Mr. Hill made a dismal failure in caring for the orchard when on his own. For some reason he abandoned the pumping system and as a result of the orchard going into the winter dry in 1915 there was a heavy loss of soft fruit trees amounting to several hundred.

Mr. Hill died when on a visit to the ranch in the spring of 1916, before damage to the orchard was in evidence. A friend, commenting, remarked that it was well he had not lived to see the wreck of the model orchard in which he had taken such great pride.

Mr. Hill, a widower for many years, had three daughters who always accompanied him to the ranch during summer holiday seasons and took great delight in the freedom of the ranch life.

Leslie Hill was a man of great determination and self reliance and with a stubbornness characteristic of his race. It is told of Dr. Effner, of Oroville, Mr. Hill's physician during his last illness, that when told that Mr. Hill had passed on, remarked, "That stubborn old Englishman, he deserved to die, he would not obey orders."

Mr. Hill was buried in the Anglican cemetery in Penticton.

The Story of Osoyoos

Note:—With regard to the statement re Ellis giving Hill the east side property at Osoyoos. If the story as told by Mr. Cawston is correct it would appear that this property could not have been included in the option given by Ellis to the Shatford brothers.

THE PROBLEM OF EDUCATION

The most serious problem confronting the few residents that made up the population of Osoyoos in 1917 was that of education. Ten children of school age, resident in the district, was required before the Department of Education would sanction the establishment of a school. We could muster five only and as there was no prospect in sight of additional settlers in the immediate future the chances of getting a school in Osoyoos in 1917 was anything but rosy.

The possibility of having children from Kruger Mountain attend school at Osoyoos was thoroughly canvassed and abandoned because of the difficulty of transportation. During the summer a family by the name of Hobbs with ten children five of them of school age, moved from their ranch on Fairview Mountain to the Richter Pass district. This gave Osoyoos new hope and no time was lost in interviewing Mr. and Mrs. Hobbs who reacted favorably to a suggestion that they move to Osoyoos where living quarters would be found for them and thus the possibility of a school at Osoyoos to start at the beginning of the fall term seemed well within reach.

Mr. Anstie, school inspector for the Okanagan was sent in by the superintendent of education to investigate and report on the advisability of establishing a school at Osoyoos. Mr. Anstie was impressed with the future possibilities of the district and reported favorably. The department he said would pay the teachers salary and he would recommend a grant of one hundred dollars to be used for such furnishings as seats and blackboards. The settlers would have to provide suitable quart-

for complete article see page 12
Doug Fraser

APRIL - 1967

COUNTRY L

Few Amateurs ...

Doug Fraser Finds European Growers are Capable Lot

These are some impressions of orcharding in Europe. Accounts of orchard practices in Europe have been given through other media, and a more detailed report is available to BCFGA locals. In this article, to avoid too much repetition, I shall try to keep to general topics.

First, I wish to thank the Bank of Montreal for making possible a most interesting look at European orcharding, and second, I wish to thank Drs. Maurice Welsh, Don Fisher and Jim Marshall, and John Smith, Louis Van Roechoudt, and J. B. Lander, for a tremendous amount of help in planning the tour, and for many letters of introduction.

NEED KNOWLEDGE

One very definite impression

is that our fellow orchardists in Europe are very capable fruit growers. There are very few amateurs over there.

Generally speaking fruit growing, in fact any form of horticulture, is regarded as an occupation requiring a knowledge of plants and how they grow, so that basic courses in horticulture, and courses in the particular branch one intends to work in, are regarded as essential prerequisites.

This is perhaps particularly true of Holland, which I felt to be a model in efficiency in anything it undertakes.

MANY COURSES

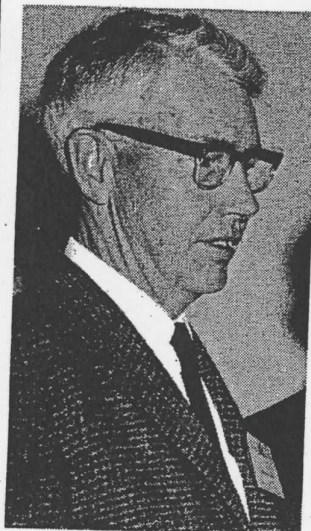
There are, for example, general horticultural evening classes, in which a complete course

takes two winters. One can also attend a four-year elementary horticultural school, which follows on from elementary school level. There are also secondary horticultural schools which give complete training in various branches of horticulture, such as fruit growing.

RESEARCH EMPHASIS

Also particularly in Holland is the research, and the of advisory service to the grower the r search.

Research is carrying number of differen



B of M Travel Grants

Douglas Fraser was one of the British Columbia winners of the annual Awards to Farmers from the Bank of Montreal. Under the program, the Bank of Montreal grants for travel-study projects are given to applicants.

Mr. Fraser's project was to study apple-growing areas in Europe, what concepts and methods are of use to us in B.C., as well as from the traditional orchards, which have relatively few, large trees per orchard, of more closely spaced smaller trees.

He visited research stations in orchards in England, Belgium, France, Switzerland, and

Annie Josephine Fraser

(Mother of Douglas)

by Douglas Plaskett Fraser

Most of the names that have got into history books are names of men. Men had the spectacular roles. They established ranches, built bridges, and were the officers of the government. Even the mountains were named after them.

Women were equally pioneers, shouldering a major part of the hardship of pioneer life, managing households and raising families in difficult circumstances. My mother, Annie Josephine Fraser, was a pioneer. She was born Annie Josephine Plaskett in 1878, the youngest child and the only girl in a family of ten children.

The Plasketts were originally well-to-do farmers in the Lake District of England. They went to the Caribbean island of St. Croix early in the nineteenth century and became sugar planters, but the abolition of slavery in 1848 made sugar less profitable and they returned to England.

However, other sugar growers had gone to southern Ontario where they found good mixed farming, and in 1859, the Plasketts emigrated to Woodstock, Ontario. A son of the house, Joseph, met and married Annie Stanley, also from Cumberland, and they raised the nine boys and one girl mentioned above.

The boys went into a variety of careers, but one, Robert Plaskett, wanted to be a cowboy. He worked in Alberta on the famous Walronde Ranch, and later acquired land of his own near Fort McLeod. Here, one summer, my mother along with her widowed mother, came to visit her brother. One day, another young rancher, George Johnston Fraser, came to the door, enquiring for a lost dog.

Many visits followed, and eventually Annie Josephine and George were married. This was on November 26th, 1907 at 6:30 a.m. as the couple had to catch the early train to Calgary en route to Kelowna.

In Kelowna, my father, George J. Fraser, established the first cannery in the Okanagan, and my mother had her first child, myself. For the next ten years, my father engaged in a variety of enterprises in Kelowna and



Annie Fraser. Photo
courtesy of Dorothy Fraser.

Douglas Plaskett Fraser lived most of his life in Osoyoos. A teacher, orchardist, and member of numerous organizations dedicated to the preservation of Okanagan history and environment, he passed away on September 15th, 1991.

Penticton, managing an orchard and a packing house, and becoming the Studebaker agent for the valley. At one time, he went into a real estate partnership with Capt. J.R. Mitchell. (Does the Mitchell Block still stand on Penticton's Main Street?)

Brought up on a farm, my father still wanted to farm, and in 1917, he took a three-year lease on the Hill Ranch in Osoyoos, and later bought some of the property.

For my mother, Osoyoos was a total change of life-style. She had been living in a newly built house on Penticton's Lakeshore Drive, and there was a social round of "at Homes" and visiting cards. This was exchanged for the life of a farmer's wife in an isolated community. There were in Osoyoos the families of Dr. J.S. Jermyn, the Customs Officer, William (Billy) Richter, a rancher, and F.A. Helps, the "hired man" on the Hill place. The Fraser family of four, Margaret having been born in Penticton, made the total population of Osoyoos seventeen when they arrived in 1917.

Pioneer women were always busy. Soon, a school was started and my mother boarded the different teachers for sixteen years. When the "boarding house" closed at the end of June, it seemed as if it re-opened for July and August. Then, as now, relatives liked to come to the Okanagan in the summer, and there were lots of Fraser and Plaskett relatives. All this went on for the next twenty years, in a large house which had no running water or electricity.

Soon, my mother was raising a family of three, as Dorothy was born. Besides all the daily work, my mother was head fruit-packer for the Hill Ranch fruit, and then the Fraser fruit and ground crops. The Osoyoos Co-op Packing house was not built until 1931.

We also had three cows. Dad milked the cows, but mother skimmed the cream, made the butter, and washed the milk bottles. My sister Margaret and I were useful delivery boys.

As well as packing fruit and entertaining guests, she had to preserve fruit for the winter. This was done in a copper boiler on a wood-burning stove in a hot kitchen. Chicken was also canned, to be opened for a meal when unexpected guests arrived. Tomatoes were put up in cans, and crocks of cucumber pickles were prepared. Bread had to be made very frequently.

Included in her work was washing and ironing. There were no automatic washers nor drip-dry materials. There were coal oil lamps to be filled, and their chimneys cleaned. Three children needed baths every Saturday night with water heated in the copper boiler on the kitchen stove.

There was a church to support. It was United and mother was Anglican, but theological differences never troubled her. She worked hard with embroidery and baking for teas and bazaars. For this and much other community work, she was made a Good Citizen in 1953.

One of my most vivid memories is of my mother pushing back a damp strand of grey hair from her forehead as she came in from packing fruit to get lunch under way. The first move was to set the table, so that when the men came in, they could see that things were well in hand.

She passed away on March 10th, 1971.

Johannes

by Bernard Webbe

J.J. Johannesen has Columbia and the Columbia mover of, among others, The Festival Concerts, The Playhouse, The International School children's and adult programmes for aspiring artists.

Born in France, father and a Czechoslovakian, who was a renowned pianist, her day, J.J. was brought up in Belgium, making him, at the very least, a prototype of a Citizen of the World.

During the Second World War, the Belgians, like the others, had to learn how to anger the occupying forces. Performing music which had undertones of resistance, the invaders could not time the Nazis were so busy. J.J. tried to insist that *va* was known as *von* Beethoven.

J.J. was a 12-year-old when the first unit of Jeunes of the early members of the war spread through the Society, J.J. said recently of the horrors of war and

In 1960, J.J. came back engaged in his first

Bernard Webbe
Concerts for
resides in Osoyoos

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Douglas Fraser

Douglas Plaskett Fraser

by Dorothy Fraser

Douglas Plaskett Fraser, a pioneer of Osoyoos, died on September 15, 1991, a day before his 83rd birthday. He was a man who had taken part in every aspect of life in the South Okanagan, from fruit growing to politics and from golf to credit unions.

He was born in Kelowna in 1908, and his family lived there and in Penicton for some years. His father, George Johnston Fraser, started the first fruit cannery in Kelowna, and later had several businesses in Penicton. In 1917, his father, originally from a Manitoba farm, took a three-year lease



Douglas Plaskett Fraser with his wife Dorothy (nee Johnson).
Photo courtesy of Ellen Fraser.

Dorothy (Johnson) Fraser came to Canada in 1925 from England. She graduated with a teaching degree from U.B.C., moved to Osoyoos and married Douglas Plaskett Fraser in 1934.

on the Hill Ranch in Osoyoos. Through various complications, George Fraser eventually bought the ranch and planted trees, grew a ground crop, organized a packing house, and worked hard for the principle and practice of central selling.

Meanwhile, Douglas had what he considered a wonderful boyhood, riding horses on the range, hunting, fishing and boating. He did say that the early Okanagan was run on boy-power, as he was often required for the dozens of farm chores.

When he was ten, he was considered old enough to ride out and bring in cattle or horses. He had his own horse, which had the habit of shying and pitching him off.

He and the two Jermyn boys, Chester and George, also spent a great deal of time practising being cowboys, and logging. Douglas once had an adventure that turned into a 22-hour ride with twenty head of cattle to be sold north of Oliver. He was then 15.

It was important to be a man in a man's world, and several of his reminiscences of difficult rides as a boy suggested his quiet satisfaction in those active days.

He was educated in a one-room school in Osoyoos until 1923, when he finished Grade 8, and went to board with a family in Oliver in order to attend high school. Oliver then had what was called a Superior School with Grades 8, 9 and 10. Grade 11, the final grade, was not given, and several students worked by themselves at the back of the classroom. Douglas failed in two subjects and had to re-do them with private tuition the next year.

With the real object in view, he worked in the orchard, and then in 1928, decided to go to UBC. There he took double honours in English and History, graduating in 1932. He then took teachers' training in 1933. Here he met Dorothy Johnson, and they were married in 1934.

He taught for a year at Dog Creek in the Cariboo, and in 1934 became principal of the Osoyoos School - it became a two-room school that year. From 1939 until 1941, he taught at a boys' private school in Qualicum. In the meantime, he had started an orchard on new land in Osoyoos, and in 1945, sold it and took over his father's flourishing acreage.

He became involved in the B.C.F.G.A., and was elected as a delegate to the annual convention twenty-five times. He was a director of the B.C.F.G.A. Mutual Hail Insurance Company, and was a founding director of the B.C.F.G.A. Mutual Insurance Company which ran successfully until taken over by ICBC. He was also a director and president of the Osoyoos Co-op Growers' Packing house.

He was one of the first to be involved in the many innovations which came in the fruit industry. In 1966, he was given a Bank of Montreal Far Leadership Award, which enabled him to study dwarf trees in Europe.

He was on the Implementation Task Force of the Federal-Provincial Okanagan Water Basin Study from 1969-82.

He was a member of the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society for many years, working on conservation and naturalist projects. It took his committee fourteen years to establish the Osoyoos Arid Biotic Zone, the "pocket desert."

He had worked in some capacity in each of the provincial and federal elections since 1941 for the old CCF and then the NDP. He and Dorothy were made Honorary Life Members of the NDP in 1982.

Douglas' many interests really did not show his quiet sense of adventure. Besides cowboy exploits, he and a friend made a remarkable sixty mile hike over the original Hope-Princeton Trail in 1926. He went on many hunting trips for grouse, duck, geese, and partridge, until his interests turned to conservation. He camped whenever he could.

In 1941, he was on a provincial government survey in the Rocky Mountain Trench, as an axe-man. This trip he has written up fully. Near its end there was a thirty mile walk to Watson Lake.

In mature years, he took up a long-held interest and rented a sailboat at the coast almost every summer. Sailing was a new experience for him. With nothing to go on but charts, he always succeeded in getting the boat where he wanted it. Later, he built a boat, and sailed on Osoyoos Lake.

Foreign travel also appealed to him. He visited the United States, Mexico, and the Caribbean. There were numerous English and Continental trips, a particularly memorable one being in a rented car through Provence. The most unusual was a trip to the USSR, including Central Asia, in 1968.

At the time of his death, he was working constantly on local history and conservation. He had an intense desire to preserve the Osoyoos waterfront, and keep at least some of the land in its original state. He had become well known as a writer of Letters to the Editor on matters of current importance. He had known everybody for over seventy-five years, and greatly enjoyed describing past life to later inhabitants.

The Fraser family has lived in the historic Haynes house since 1917, and he was particularly pleased when Haynes' descendants came to look at the house of their ancestors. He is survived by his wife Dorothy and his son George G. Fraser, who farms the family orchards and teaches mathematics at the Osoyoos Secondary School.